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TRADITIONAL AFRICAN FAITH PRACTICE IS STILL RELEVANT TODAY: FRANCIS ADJEI SPEAKS

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Mr. Francis Adjei, the Ashanti regional director of the Centre for National Culture has called on all Ghanaians to be tolerant and appreciative of the diverse religious views and groups that we have in the nation to ensure peaceful-coexistence and conflict free atmosphere in the country.

He made the call during the maiden national conference for traditional priests and the priesthood institution held on Tuesday, 29th July, 2014 at the luxurious and posh Golden Tulip hotel, Kumasi-City, Ashanti region.

The event which is the maiden one of planned annual conferences is branded 'KUM-ASE CONVERSATION', which is an indication and cultural connection to the rural dialogue procedure where all important village decisions and issues of community import are taken under the big tree in the centre of the community.

Speaking on the theme 'Traditional Culture, Diversity and National Development- (Issues, Needs and Potentials), Mr. Francis Adjei praised the organizers of the conference for the vision of seeing the need for Unity and strengthening of the capacities of the traditional priests and their shrines to be able to function effectively and efficiently. He said, traditional faith practice and culture is very relevant in contemporary Ghana as it was in the ancient time. He said, adaptations, when made properly can manifest in quality practice of some of our cultural heritage which is facing a lot challenges and is under threat of being substituted with foreign ones.

Mr. Adjei educated the participants who were mostly traditional priests drawn from all over Ghana about the Ghana cultural policies and development. He commended the role of the traditional priest as a healer, social worker, teacher, cultural advocate and solicitor, peace maker, conflict resolution specialist and mediator as well as a family support. He continued that every traditional priest is a cultural as well as health care asset to the nation. He said with the extensive knowledge that trained and graduate priests possess, one cannot help but to give them the needed support to ensure quality health care delivery in Ghana seen in emotional, physical and spiritual healing.

On his part, Mr. Dag Akyeampong, the local director of the US based non-profit, International Center for African Culture & Arts, praised all the government agencies i.e Centre for National Culture and the NCCE for their contributions towards the empowerment of the traditional priests with knowledge and resources towards strengthening their capacities to be able to function effectively and efficiently.

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